

## **Biblical Origin of Communication in the Context of *Synergistic Communication Theory*: Basis for Creating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communication Model**

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### **Abstract**

For many years Adventist denominational schools have been embracing the popular worldview of communication process described as Sender-Message-Channel-Receiver-Feedback model. Then in the last decade this model was challenged by a new metaparadigm called Synergistic Communication Theory (Barrios, 2003) by adding spiritual dimensions and extending the process beyond the communicator's lifetime because communication is considered as "gift from God." As a Church with eternal hope, it is imperative to view and teach communication based on Adventist standard. This study aimed at creating Christian communication model with the inputs of selected University theologians, educators, and Bible authorities from Adventist University of the Philippines.

This qualitative study asserts the idea of a paradigm shift. Because it is about time to change the old view of communication model presented as human-centered, static, one-dimensional, two-people-at-a-time process, and technology-driven! Using the armchair research, the open-ended questionnaire/opinionnaire methods, a brand new illustrated communication model was created, fitted for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians. With the Holy Bible as the major source of facts and data, the new communication model has been scholarly presented as God-controlled, continuous, and relationship-driven. Furthermore, the study confirms that spiritual salvation is man's ultimate goal for communication.

### **I. Introduction**

There is an apparent indication that communication is one of the most neglected theoretical courses among Adventist schools. Oftentimes, the teacher-learner classroom discussions on communication usually revolve only within secular and human levels. The divine principles and spiritual content of communication are gradually disregarded because of the overwhelming publicity of new technology and social media. Such technological hype is giving people the wrong notion that becoming an effective communicator is acquiring expensive, high-end gadgets that will provide unlimited possibilities to communicate. There is nothing wrong with technology. However, technology occupies only a small component of the whole human communication process. And it cannot be placed above all other elements of communication most specifically, people or *the communicators* themselves because they are the inventors and programmers of technology with the sole purpose of assisting them in their work. Therefore, people are still the most important

components of communication, and giving much importance to media more than people is anti-human!

Adventist schools are expected to be at the forefront of new knowledge in communication concepts, theories, and principles that will edify biblical truth and man's spiritual salvation. But upon examining and observing how our teachers perform in their communication classes, they seem to be found wanting in theories and research. The most serious pedagogical weakness is that in the absence of instructional materials based on deep biblical concepts. Adventist teachers simply adapt the secular viewpoint of communication. I can easily relate with this. After spending about 30 years as communication teacher in a state university, I was surprised to know that there was no distinct Adventist course content in communication being used in our denominational schools. I have expressed such predicament in a series of paper presentations on Synergistic Communication Theory during the first and second *Scholars'*

Conference in 2013 and 2014, respectively. My first comment was about the laxness and mediocrity of communication teachers: unchallenged in the past decades. Unchallenged, in the sense that the content of lesson plans and syllabi of teachers have never been updated five or ten years ago. Many merely *parrot* the old communication ideas their mentors taught them ages ago. Every school term they conveniently submit communication course outlines duplicated directly from the past years, as if the discipline had stopped giving them new knowledge.” - *A Meta-analysis of Secular Theories and Biblical Foundations of Communication: Bridging Pedagogical Gaps* (Barrios, 2013)

The second message was a direct recommendation of adopting the new paradigm that will re-tool teachers with spiritual foundations of communication: The development of Synergistic Communication Model serves as a catalyst of change in communication field...The results of this study will make educators more their lessons on communication because the model does not only integrate the best communication theories of the world, but it has expanded the Christian precepts, and man’s

Salvation, as well. -*Developing a Metaparadigm Tool for Teaching Communication in Christian Schools: The Synergistic Communication Model* (Barrios, 2014)

Like gears and motors that will regulate the intended output of this study, a thorough discussion of the *Synergistic Communication Theory* (Barrios, 2003) is a must. Because it will definitely change the landscape of our old, worn-out, outmoded view of human communication process, leading toward the development of a progressive and Christian view of communication metaparadigm.

### Research Objectives

1. Revisit the *Synergistic Communication Theory* (Barrios, 2003) to establish the paradigm shift of communication process – from the secular worldview to the Biblical and God-controlled communication model.
2. Formulate the most comprehensive definition of effective communication that best represents the Biblical principles and the great hope of Christians for God’s plan of Salvation and Christ’s Second Coming.

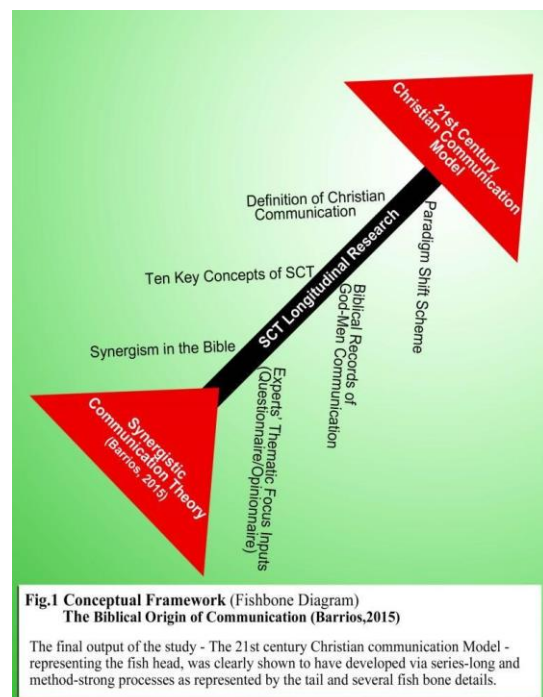
“The teaching of communication among Adventist schools has remained

Plot out the origin/beginning of communication as recorded chronologically in the Bible, by analyzing the events and consequences of God-men communication, focusing on the following elements:  
a)period/time  
b)locale/place  
c)communicators  
d)message  
e)medium/channel  
f)feedback/result  
g)“noise”/barrier  
and  
h)ultimate goal/purpose.

Create/develop a communication model (or graphical representation of *synergistic communication*) based on Biblical origin, principles, and spiritual precepts for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians.

## II. Methods

The credibility of this study lies on the longitudinal studies conducted by this researcher from 2003 to 2015. *Synergistic* concept was used as the independent variable in series of related researches that were presented in the span of more than a decade, both in the local and international conventions. This study is the third paper



accepted for this annual *International Scholars Conference*. The consistent, assertive, and persevering attitude of the researcher to develop an Adventist paradigm of communication are the strengths and motivations of the study. Inputs on essential

concepts for this study were derived from the author's series of researches on *synergistic communication* in the last decade, namely:

2003–*Development of Synergistic Communication Theory* (Article). PLM Review Vol. XVII No. 1 January-March 2003

2008–*Synergistic Communication*. Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Cavite

2012–*Synergistic Communication Theory: The Missing Link in TESOL Curriculum*. TESOL Phils., Baguio City

2013–*A Meta-analysis of Secular Theories and Biblical Foundations of Communication: Bridging the Pedagogical Gaps*. (1<sup>st</sup> International Scholars Conference) Asia-Pacific International University, Muak Lek, Saraburi, Thailand

2013–*Re-tooling TESOL with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Synergistic Communication Foundations: A Metaparadigm Pedagogy*. TESOL Phils. Baguio City

2014–*Bridging, Leadership Gaps, Barriers and Miscommunications in Organization: The Synergistic Communication Perspective*. (World Interdisciplinary Conference) – Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas City

2014–“Developing a Metaparadigm Tool for Teaching Communication in Christian Schools: The Synergistic Communication Model” (2<sup>nd</sup> International Scholars Conference) – AUP, Silang, Cavite

2014 – “Cross-case Analysis of Basic Communication Theories Toward a Meta-theory-development of Human Communication” TESOL 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference, Silliman University, Dumaguete City.

In addition to these series of study, as educator and academic head of the communication department of Adventist University of the Philippines, the author has consistently integrated *synergistic concepts* in his syllabi and course outlines in the university. Likewise, the synergistic communication concepts have been used as topic of many seminars, trainings, fora, church sermons, writings, and speeches, as well. It is the researcher's hope this paper most exciting part. (pp. 262-263)

“They don't realize that the very strength of the relationship is in having another point of

will be the climax of these study series because it will categorically create a graphical representation or model of *synergistic communication theory*.

The major methodology of this research is via *armchair* or *desk* research. The biggest portion of the time were spent in the thorough analysis of the Holy Bible. In addition to the use of several versions of the Scripture, a number of Bible supplementary references were examined for factual validation..

Thirty full-time faculty members of Adventist University of the Philippines were chosen to answer the five-item open-ended *questionnaire/opinionnaire* on Biblical communication. Mostly with theology degree and have been in the denominational work as teachers, the respondents share their stored knowledge and Adventist insights of Bible-based communication. Their written responses, however, were not analyzed quantitatively but used as *experts' thematic focus inputs* that reinforce the desk researches from the Scripture. A fishbone diagram (Fig.1) was adapted to represent the conceptual framework of the study.

### III. Results and Discussions

#### *Synergism in the Bible*

Synergy is derived from the Greek word *synergos* meaning “working together.” Webster's New International

Dictionary (2000 edition) defines *synergism* as *the doctrine that human effort cooperates with divine grace in the salvation of the soul*. Stephen Covey devotes a chapter about *synergy* in his best-selling book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* (2005) as habit # 6 Synergize. Covey labels the habit of synergy as “creative cooperation,” and he claims that “synergy is the highest activity in all life.” Here's to underscore some of the synergistic principles in Covey's book:

“What is synergy? Simply defined, it means that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. It means that the relationship which the parts have to each other is a part in and of itself. It is not only a part, but the most catalytic, the most empowering, the most unifying, and the

view. Sameness is not oneness; uniformity is not unity. Unity, or oneness, is complementariness, not sameness.

Sameness is uncreative...and boring. The essence of synergy is to value the differences.” (p.274)

Covey advocates life-changing principles of synergism. Valuing so much on healthy human relations and smooth interpersonal relationship through communication.

“...And the key to valuing those differences is to realize that all people see the world, not as it is, but as they are...The person who is truly effective has the humility and reverence to recognize his own perceptual limitations and to appreciate the rich resources available through interaction with the hearts and minds of other human beings. That person values the differences because those differences add to his knowledge, to his understanding of reality.” (p.277)

Ed Aurelio Reyes, founding president of the *SanibLakas ng Taong Bayan Foundation*, is the first Filipino who popularized the concept of synergism in multi-disciplinary application. The term “saniblakas” is a Tagalog coinage of two combined words meaning “cooperative strength.” Reyes once articulated: “Togetherness in synergy magnifies total capability of a group many times greater than the sum of capabilities they would have when they are working separately.” To date, he has extensively published fifteen synergistic paradigms – from human development, education, science, health, politics, social justice, to the arts. The SanibLakas foundation with the vision, “Human Development and Harmony,” is open for membership to “synergy-oriented individuals” who are committed “to build synergies” (Reyes,2002).

SOURCE	TEXT	INTERPRETATION
<b>Romans 12: 4,5</b>	<i>For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.</i>	Synergy is like a human body; with different parts and functions but all belong to one body; all members function in harmony; the need for mutual dependence, respect, and care for each other.
<b>Romans 8:28</b>	<i>And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.</i>	Synergy works like a God who causes everything to work together for good.
<b>Ephesians 4: 3-6</b>	<i>Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.</i>	Synergy is Christian unity based on wonderful scriptural facts: there is one body (Christ's body); one spirit (the Holy Spirit); one hope (Eternal Life); one Lord (the Triune God);
<b>1 Thessalonians 3:2</b>	<i>And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:</i>	Synergy is being a co-laborer, a fellow laborer, or helper working together for a common goal/mission.
<b>1 Corinthians 14:26</b>	<i>How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.</i>	Synergy is coming together or assembling together in united purpose.
<b>Hebrews 10:24-25</b>	<i>And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.</i>	Synergy is to edify others never to condemn nor discriminate.
<b>Mark 16:20</b>	<i>And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen</i>	The result of synergy is unity of the people in the manner God cooperates with men.
<b>Ephesians 4:15-16</b>	<i>But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.</i>	Synergy is bringing things together in like manner Christ unifies all believers with different gifts.
<b>Matthew 18: 19-20</b>	<i>Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.</i>	Synergy operates intrapersonally and interpersonally, as well. God is aware of all human communication, and never abandons or leaves any one. Relationship for Him matters.
<b>John 13: 34-35</b>	<i>A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.</i>	Christianity is a religion of synergy. Its goals are love, unity, harmony, peace, relationship, and holiness.

The Holy Bible has several connotative meaning of synergism. Although the term synergy was never used in the Scripture, but its basic etymological meaning such as unity, cooperation, love, harmony, and relationship are purely etched in many Biblical texts. The best example of synergism in the Bible is the Holy Trinity – One God in Three Persons,

living in unity, harmony, and in perfect communion. Another synergy metaphor is the Bible itself as *One Book, One Story* – from “In the beginning” through “Amen” it tells the story of Jesus Christ. In the following table are Biblical texts that reveal the principles of synergism:

### **Ten Key Concepts of the Synergistic Communication Theory**

*The Synergistic Communication Theory* is a purposeful *paradigm shift* of concept change - from the secular viewpoint to a God-controlled human communication process. Because of the researcher’s desire to promote the

Adventist view of communication, his belief about the concept of *synergism* grew stronger; that it became the byline of all his talks, sermons, and lectures. The theory,

therefore, in its own right, has reached its full level of validation and acceptability in terms of oral discussions, academic interactions, and written examinations.

SCT is a compendium of the best concepts of thinkers in the world like Lasswell, Shannon & Weaver, Osgood, Schramm, Newcomb, Dance, and Berlo, among others. By cross-analysis of theoretical elements, by combining relevant concepts, and by adding Biblical dimensions into it, a distinctly Christian *metaparadigm* of communication was created.

Thus, Synergistic Communication Theory is not a new concept but it was formulated by shifting the paradigms and by changing common, traditional view into another viewpoint, a new mindset, and thinking attitude.

Essentially, are the ten key concepts of SCT based on the popular communication theories, as well as the Biblical principles and Christian philosophies which remain a constant gospel message of God to humanity. To easily memorize the concepts, simply remember the *mnemonic: Communication Is The Most Important Moving Course Toward Real Greatness*. Every first letter represents a key concept, as follows:

### **Communication is Continuous**

All human communication are continuation of the past. It began from God during Creation. The process continues up to this day in the most sophisticated way. People could never claim they are the original source of any message, thought, or idea. As far as human communication is concerned, it is unending; it has no beginning and it has no end; it is not static; it flows continuously; it is ever present even when people are silent, absent, or even mindless of things they do. Communication is a process, not a thing – things end and are bound with time, but a process is continues and endless. There is an old adage: “You cannot step on the same river twice.”

### **Communication is Irreversible**

Once it is sent no one can undo it! Many times, people would wish to retrieve words they have spoken carelessly at the height of anger or for a broken promise. Sometimes they have been forgiven for the hurt they caused with another person, but the words they uttered usually remains in the mind and can’t be erased easily. The Bible counsels people to weigh their words carefully...(Prov. 12:18).

### **Communication is Transactional**

Every time people communicate they work on two messages: the content and relational messages. Content is the most obvious topic or idea under discussion. But the less apparent message is the relational level – which describes how people feel, their attitude, their affinity, and degree of control with one another. (Adler & Elmhorst, 2013). Socially, they communicate differently with a friend, with their boss, with their parents, or with a child. (Osborn & Motley, 1999).

### **Communication is Multi-dimensional**

People are inherently made up of physical, mental, social, and spiritual dimensions. When they communicate they are revealing these aspects simultaneously along with what they are saying orally. Communication does not exist in isolation. Everything is part of something. Everything is part and parcel of something, and eventually all parts affect other parts.

Everything is relative.

### **Communication is Inescapable**

There is a popular axiom, “One cannot not communicate.” Can we think of any human activity that does not involve communication? Absolutely none. “We send a rich stream of nonverbal messages even when we are silent. Facial expression, posture, gesture, clothing, and a host of behaviors offer cues about our attitudes. The impossibility of not communicating means that we send messages even by our absence. Failing to show up at an event or leaving the room suggests meanings to others. Because communication is unavoidable, it is essential to consider the unintentional messages we send.” (Adler & Elmhorst, 2013)

### **Communicators have Multiple Roles**

All communicators assume all the roles/elements involved in the process. There is no specific role that a communicator does because communication is a continuous and dynamic process. At any given situation, they perform as senders, receivers, mediums, message, feedbacks, or even the noise that cause its breakdown. Multiplicity of roles is the concept of synergistic communication.

### **Communication is Complex**

In reality, communication is not simple and easy. It is not the simple exchange of words that most people think it is. It is a complex, ongoing, dynamic, and changing process. More can go wrong than go right. And it falls apart if we don’t keep fixing it (Deep & Sussman, 1990). Generally, we communicate in two ways: nonverbally and verbally. Harold Sala (1985) quoted Norm Wright’s points how communication is often complicated by misunderstanding. Each statement comes six messages (at least), as follows: 1)What you mean to say 2)What you actually say 3)What the other person hears 4)What the other person thinks he hears 5)What the other says about what you said 6)What you think the other person said about what you said. Nonverbally, the meaning people get from others come less from what they say than from how they say

it.

### **Communication is Transformational**

Communication is the best channel toward achieving spiritual transformation. Transformation is the highest state of spiritual life whereby Christians put their full dependence upon the Will of God. To be transformed is to have a Christ-like character that loves and forgives. Ruth Haley Barton (2011) describes transformation as “the process by which Christ is formed in us...” Apostle Paul counsels Christians in Romans 12:2: Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. A change may only be physical, partial, and superficial but transformation is a thinking process, always mindful to be wholistic, substantial, and transcending. Like a metamorphosed butterfly...which is „not just a better caterpillar,” but a real transformation – inside out!

### **Communication is Relational**

Relationship, love, unity, cooperation, and salvation are the ultimate goals of communication. Every time people communicate must have these highest goals in mind. Communication is a gift from God, thus, Christians should imitate His way of communication. “Communication is deeply rooted in God’s nature,” wrote Viggo Sogaard (1993), “and it is this nature he imparted to humanity when He created us in

His own image. Communication is therefore not something accidental or supplementary for human beings, but it is the only way to be fully human. Furthermore, God has given us a mandate to communicate a message to others.” Sogaard (1993) writes, “When we look at God’s Incarnation, we are looking at the center of communication...By this action God was bending down to disclose himself through ordinary situations of human life...He taught us to seek relationships with those we try to reach ...God achieved his communicational goals through love.”

### **Communication is God-centered and God-controlled**

God is the first and original Communicator. As the Creator, He spoke and everything in this world were created. “The world in which we live is a gift of love from the Creator God, from „Him who made heaven and the earth, the sea and the springs of water” (Rev. 14:7, NKJV). Within this creation He placed humans, set intentionally in relationship with Himself, other persons, and the surrounding world. . Today, He commissioned the Church, His body, to represent Him, and to communicate Him by His standards and methods: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).” The Bible clearly points out: “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. (Matt. 12:36).



## **21<sup>st</sup> Century Definition of Christian Communication**

Defining communication in its truest sense is the *sine qua non* of an effective Christian teacher. Short of having a sensible definition of communication, many teachers simply use clichés such as

“sharing of ideas,” “transfer of information,” or “conversation,” which are only partly true because of the absence of spiritual element in the context. Based on the result of this study, the most suitable definition of communication is as follows:

***Communication is the unending process of exchanging thoughts, words, and actions within a person and with people, purposely driven by love, unity, cooperation, and holiness.***

This definition literally gives us a contrasting perspective of the popular and secular worldview of communication with the Christian viewpoint called *Synergistic Communication* (Barrios, 2003) with the following premises:

- (1) The communicators or people themselves are the most important and essential key players in communication. They are never superseded by technology nor by any powerful media, i.e. they are to be treated as human beings who value relationships, worthy of respect, justice, and human dignity;
- (2) Communication is not a thing but a process; things stop and end but a process is continuous and unending. Communication process should never be described simply as information sharing nor technology transfer because these things may lapse after doing their functions.
- (3) In communication, people are identical with their thoughts and actions. They send streams of verbal and nonverbal messages, consciously and unconsciously, deliberate and unintentional. In strictest sense, our messages include “everything we think about, everything we say and do, as well as everything we don’t do, nor think about when we ought to.” Generally, all human activities and experiences involve

communication.

- (4) Every communication should aim at achieving love, unity, peace, cooperation, harmony, and relationship; it emanates from the individual and extends it to others continuously and beyond. Oneness in love should be the ultimate goal of human communication. Hurt feelings, destroyed reputation, rejection, misunderstanding, and conflicts may arise as barriers but people, by nature, still wish for love, harmony, and smooth interpersonal relationship. The root words are *commune*, *community*, and *communion* which denote sharing and relationship.
- (5) Communication process constantly operates within three interrelated levels: within the individual (intrapersonal), with another person and among other groups of people (interpersonal), and through technology (mass media). Inevitably, what a person does will eventually affect the whole community and beyond. Communication process is never static nor does it operate in isolation.
- (6) Communication has spiritual consequences. Aside from the fact that God is the first and original *Communicator* – He spoke and everything was created, communication is a gift from God. The Holy Bible is the record of His loving communication to humanity. His command is “...Love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (*John 13:34-35KJV*).

**Table 3. Common Fallacies in Communication Definition**

COMMON FALLACY	SYNERGISTIC CONCEPT
<i>Communication begins with a single sender.</i>	Messages originate from all various sources, points, and channels. Communicators perform multiple roles such as the sender, receiver, message, channel, and feedback.
<i>Communication is fixed and static.</i>	Communication is unending, continuous, and infinite. It does not cease in one's grave because good communication while living has eternal consequence.
<i>Communication begins and ends at one point at a time.</i>	Communication has no beginning, and it has no end. It is continuous, unstoppable, and simultaneous. We must know what to listen to amidst the noisy world.
<i>Communication is mostly oral or spoken.</i>	Communication is everything we think about, we say and do, as well as, we never think, say, and do when we ought to.
<i>The ultimate goal of communication is transfer of information.</i>	Communication is not only about transferring of information that once sent, it is done. It is about people with feelings who long for love, unity, harmony, and relationship. People are not machines that can be turned on and off.
<i>Communication occurs at least between two people.</i>	A person in solitude, when alone, and in personal contemplation engages in intrapersonal communication.
<i>Advance technology makes communication effective.</i>	Technology are meant only as „extensions of human hands and mind.“ The most effective forms of communication are via face-to-face, immersion, and being around with people you care as shown in Christ's example of Incarnation.

### ***Rationale for a Paradigm Shift***

It is sad to say that many communication teachers nowadays do not use analysis nor critical thinking approach on subject matters they are teaching. According to the respondents and based on the facts derived from desk research, Table 2 explains the common fallacies of insensitive teachers in their discussions about communication. Thus, a paradigm shift in the course content is essential.

### ***Biblical Records of God-Men Communication***

The Holy Bible reveals the sacred truth that communication is a gift from God. Human communication, therefore, is continuation of God's message at the beginning of time. No person, except the prophets and Bible writers, could ever claim the right of Ownership of the knowledge he/she had acquired. Neither one could boast of his gift, talent, or skill because God is the source of all wisdom.

Viggo Sogaard (1993) gave a vivid picture of God's nature as a *Communicator*. Sogaard wrote: *He "expressed" himself at the time of creation. He spoke, and things happened. He sought company with Adam, Abraham, Moses and David. He let his Son live in a social context, and he leads his people into a warm community of believers.* Sogaard further revealed in his book, *Media in Church and Mission*, the four purposes of God's communication with humanity: 1) God makes Himself known; 2) God wants to be understood; 3) God wants a relationship; and 4) God wants a

response (pp. 12-14).

Ron Jones (2013), founder of the Titus Institute, published a scholarly article in social media entitled, "How has God Spoken to His people throughout the OT and NT?" The following are excerpts of Jones' studios analysis:

"We know that God is a God who speaks to his people.

"God spoke to our forefathers (OT believers) through the prophets and has spoken to us (NT believers) in his Son.

"God spoke to the people of Israel through intermediaries, the prophets. When he spoke to the prophets, it always had to do with his redemptive plan, not personal issues in their lives unless it involved his redemptive plan.

"The pattern in both the OT and NT is God speaking to his people through intermediaries and those intermediaries receiving revelation only regarding matters involving God's redemptive plan.

Those intermediaries were then to speak to God's people about righteousness. This involved preaching about what is good and right before God and about what is sin and evil before God which we as God's people are to apply in our lives. Those intermediaries then wrote that revelation down which became the OT and NT.

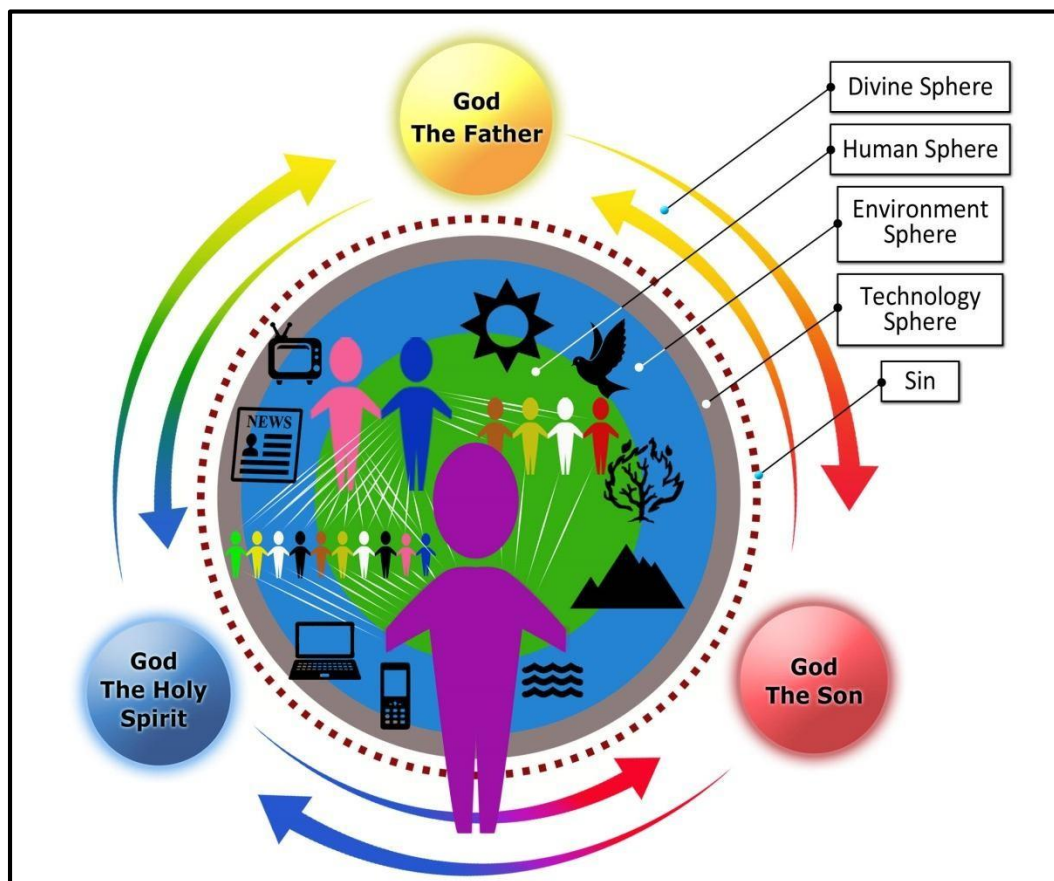
"When we get to heaven we will have direct communication with God again. That is part of the blessing of redemption."

**Table 4. Plotting the Actual Thoughts and Words of the Communication between God and Humanity as Recorded in the Holy Scripture (King James Version)**

<b>Period/ Place</b>	<b>Communicators (With God)</b>	<b>Message (Biblical Origin)</b>	<b>Medium/ Channel</b>	<b>Feedback/ Result</b>	<b>Noise/ Barrier</b>	<b>Ultimate Communication Goal / Purpose</b>
Before Creation/ Before time/ Eternity/ Eternal Kingdom	<b>Holy Trinity</b>	<i>Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.</i>	Divine communication	Synergy of roles: Unity in love, oneness, and divine harmony	None (Perfect and flawless Kingdom)	The Triune God was providing the following: a) Salvation for us ( <i>1 Peter 1:20-21</i> ); b) God was electing His people ( <i>Ephesians 1:4</i> ); and c) God was preparing a kingdom for us ( <i>Matthew 24:34</i> )
OLD TESTA- MENT	<b>God to Himself</b>	John 17: 5, 24  <i>And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.</i>	Through Moses, the Bible writer	God was pleased with everything He had made	None	The Creator is by nature a communicator. He “expressed” himself at the time of Creation.
During Creation/ Eternal Space		Genesis 1:3  <i>And God said, Let us</i>				

On the sixth day of Creation/ Eternal Space	<b>The Triune God</b>	<i>make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26</i>	Divine intrapersona	Unity and oneness in the Holy Trinity: <i>And God saw everything that he had made, was very good... (Gen 1: 31).</i>	None	The creation of man was part and parcel of the divine plan.
On the Seventh Day after the Sixth Day of Creation: The First Sabbath/ Perfect world	<b>The Triune God</b>	<i>And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. Gen. 2:2-3</i>	Through Moses, the Pentateuch Books writer	God rested	None	God is the Lord of the seventh day Sabbath
After the First Week of Creation/ Garden of Eden	<b>God-Adam</b>	<i>The Lord God commanded the man saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Gen. 2:16-17</i>	Face-to-face	Adam heard the Creator's instruction	Psychological, emotional, social, and spiritual inexperience	God endowed people with Free Will (Freedom of Choice); Man's obedience was tested in <i>the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.</i>
The Fall of Man/ Garden of Eden	<b>God-Adam and Eve</b>					
Period of Patriarchs Before and After the Flood (Antediluvian Period)/ The Planet Earth	<b>God - Noah</b>	<i>"Where art thou?" "...I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself..." Genesis 3</i>	Only oral communication to Adam and Eve; but God sees everything	Because of disobedience they were expelled from the Garden of Eden	Sin	Man forfeited his direct and Personal Communication with God
NEW TESTAMENT	<b>God-Zacharias</b>	<i>"And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them: and behold, I will destroy them with the earth...Make thee an ark of gopher wood Gen. 6-21</i>	Face-to-face	<i>"Thus did Noah according to all that commanded him, so did he (Gen. 6:22); He spoke to Noah five times over 950 years</i>	Sin	"God is fully capable of speaking to his people at any time in any way he so chooses."(Jones, 2013)
King Herod's Reign/ Judea						
King Herod's Days/ Six months after John's Birth was announced/ Nazareth	<b>God-Mary</b>	<i>Fear not Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard: and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. Luke 1: 13</i>	Angel	Zacharias was unable to speak until John was born.	Disbelief	God has perfect plans for His children; they must have faith
		<i>Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women...behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.. Luke 1:26-38</i>	Angel Gabriel	Submission of Mary to the divine plan	<b>Public pressure being a virgin</b>	God chooses holy people to pursue his redemptive plan.

Fig.2 THE SYNERGISTIC COMMUNICATION THEORY MODEL (Barrios, 2015)  
*The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian Communication Paradigm*



The model is based on the Biblical truth that communication originated from God before Creation. The God-persons of the Holy Trinity have been in constant communion and in perfect relationship even „before the foundations of the world.“ (Proverbs 8:22-36; John 17:5, 24) Thus, the plan of Salvation had been in the divine chronicle of the Triune God before the world was. (1 Peter 1:20-21; Ephesians 1:4; Matthew 24:34) Such truth is the foundation of genuine communication. Human communication, therefore, is a gift from God.

There are four major spheres in the model: i) **the divine sphere** (outermost) where the constant synergy of the Triune God exists: and where the Creator controls all the affairs, and fate of the entire human communication process; ii) the central and innermost circle is **the human sphere** (green) – the setting of human communication, led at first by a man created in the image of his Maker who was assigned to be responsible over his environment and his fellowmen. He is the key player in human communication process

whose multi-dimensional faculties, i.e. his attitude, values, beliefs, affinity, orientation, experience, etc. (*intrapersonal*) have a direct influence in the way he communicates with other human beings (*interpersonal*). Likewise, every individual has to synergize with others in continuum; iii) the outer circle from the center in blue is the **environment sphere** with some elements of nature God uses in expressing Himself to humanity since the beginning of time; iv) the narrow gray circle is the **technology sphere** made up of compendium of man-made technology and gadgets, purposely made to assist people in communication; it implies that these human inventions have no way of replacing the perfect form of direct (face-to-face) communication as Christ demonstrated in His Incarnation. The added element in the diagram is the *circle of dots*, symbolizing sin or “the presence and activity of darkness” which separates people from God. However, such communication barrier between people and God is only transient and incidental. God has an appointed time to vindicate Himself

and put such darkness to an end.

The Synergistic Communication Theory Model is a paradigm shift of the popular communication model taught in mediocre schools for decades. Christians must heed the call to transform their mindset from the secular view of communication to a Biblical perspective of Godcontrolled/God-centered communication process. (Barrios, 2015)

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